

# PERSONAL & CHURCH RENEWAL

Reaching out to God for a deeper awareness of his life in us

Writing in 1902, just a few years before the remarkable events of the Welsh Revival, the Rev George Jones of Llaneurgain wrote, "if we are to have another revival in Wales we must rouse the Church to desire it until that desire gets so strong and fervent that we come to feel that it's not possible to be able to live without it".

*The sense of urgent desire is motivated by a combination of three things,*

- *A holy dissatisfaction with the quality of spiritual life that we currently enjoy.*
- *A Biblical vision of what the Spirit-filled life looks like.*
- *A faith-filled hope that God can indeed bring dry bones back to life.*

As we pray for personal and spiritual renewal this month, start by asking God to grant you those three motivating factors, such that you will feel that 'it's not possible to live without' a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit!

## SALVATION

*Praying for those we long to see come to faith*

**Pray for those attending Coffee Shop and Lunch Club as they reconnect with TBC after the summer break.**

Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus on your frontline this month.



**Pray for 'frontline friends' to come to faith, and for the courage to share your faith with them.**

Pray for those on the current Alpha Course.

**Pray for someone to bring along to the Geraldine Latty evening on September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## HEALING

*Seeking God's healing and wholeness for those with health problems*

Pray for . . . Sarah Britten, Jean Cannon, Edna Clarke, Alison Collett, Noel Defraine, Rosemary Howell, Ruth Hulse, Joan Jones' niece Carol, Natalia Kent's mum Tanya, Marie Merrick, June Short, Mike Spiller, Len Steele, Dave Tate, young Conan, little Charlie, and others who are suffering with ill health.

Pray for . . . all those known to us who have recently been bereaved.

## PRAYING when you don't feel like it

It's often the way that the really important things in life don't come naturally, but need to be worked at (think healthy eating, adequate exercise, healthy marriages etc).

Prayer is no different. Most Christians find it a real *discipline* to pray. Here's some words from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century writer Evelyn Underhill, by which she encourages us to press through our feelings to *choose* to pray.

*"If the worth of our prayer life depended upon the maintenance of a constant high level of feeling or understanding, we would be in a dangerous place. No, even when our heart is cold and our mind is dim, prayer is still possible to us.*

***The determined fixing of our will upon God, and pressing toward him steadily without deflection; this is the very centre and art of prayer."***

As this new season of autumn starts, let's be a people who learn the 'art' of prayer and determine to 'press towards God steadily' - despite our feelings. Use the contents of this leaflet to make a start, and come to our monthly prayer meeting on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> to join with others to pray.

## FRONTLINE MISSION

### ***This month: Hospitality & Catering***

*Each month we pray for an individual and for all those who share the same area of life and work. Their Frontline!*

Hello! My name is Alison Griffiths. I have lived in Thornbury and been part of TBC for about 17 years. For the last seven years I have managed the restaurant at Ikea. I have responsibility for twenty-three staff in a four hundred seater restaurant. We are open from 9.30am to 8pm and serve a lot of Swedish meat balls! Folks know I'm a Christian: this can sometimes have its challenges particularly in terms of the way I react to the various situations that arise in a busy restaurant. Because there are a wide range of faiths in a huge workforce at Ikea, there is a great sensitivity towards these various beliefs. There are a number of Christians which is great, but because of the pressure to work weekends and varied hours this can make it difficult in terms of church engagement and involvement in worship on Sunday.

*For Prayer:*

- For the ability to be able to get alongside and be sensitive to things that may be troubling members of the team. Also getting the right managerial balance between getting the job done and being sensitive to the needs of staff.
- That God would help me to do the best job possible being able to prioritise the things that need to be actioned and also providing a clear vision.
- Grace in building new relationships within and without the church and the opportunity to share my faith.



connect

September  
2016

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Helping to grow a faith that lasts*

*Please pray for*

- All those starting school or moving to a new school, that they will settle well and not be afraid to share their faith
- Our Children and Youth ministry as it gets into full swing after Summer, that it will be an amazing year of changed lives as our young people encounter God in fresh and dynamic ways
- All those who teach in our schools and lead in our Children and Youth ministry, for inspiration, endurance, love, and an energy that comes from the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit



## NATIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

*Crying out to God for the deep needs of our nation and our world*

*Please pray*

- For Syria
- For those affected by the recent earthquake in Italy
- For politicians as the autumn conference season gets under way during September
- For refugee families arriving in South Gloucestershire this month

## WORLD MISSION

*This Month: Elam Ministries*

*Touching the world through praying for our wider mission links  
and for the persecuted Church*

Elam was founded in 1990 with a vision to serve the growing church in Iran and the surrounding nations. In the last thirty years or so there has been unprecedented growth in the area and today a conservative estimate is that there are at least 360,000 Christian believers in Iran. Church leaders believe that millions can be added to the church in the next few years, such is the spiritual hunger that exists and the disillusionment with the Islamic regime.

Here at TBC we have supported Elam for a number of years financially and with prayer, sharing their vision for all of the people of the Iran region to have the opportunity to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to follow him.

*Please pray.*

- For Christians in Iran who suffer persecution, some of whom are in prison or detention, that their faith will stand.
- For the continued flow of Bibles and Christian literature into Iran.
- For the many believers who want to be trained for ministry
- For those from an Iranian background coming to Christ in the UK.

## TBC MISSION

*This month: Inside Out*

*Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

Inside Out is a fellowship group which was started here at TBC about 10 years ago. We meet monthly and during the summer go out on visits to places of interest, such as Westbury Court Garden, (pictured). During the winter months we meet in the church and have speakers on varied subjects followed by a now traditional afternoon tea. The group we serve has got older with us and have formed and sustained long standing friendships. All are welcome and many members invite their friends and neighbours to join us.



Give thanks for those who started the group: especially Chris and Ann Buck - we pray God's blessing on them.

Give thanks for those who attend, that they might feel encouraged and supported by Christian friends. There are often comments about the pleasure of going out together and the value of fellowship.

Pray for continued health and strength for those involved in planning and implementing the programme (recently 2 couples have decided to join us just as 2 couples are preparing to stand down - we thank God for His provision).

Please pray for people in our community who feel their social contacts are reducing as they get older, and for those who 'look out' for these friends and introduce them to groups like Inside Out.



*LOCAL & UK MISSION This month: One25*

*Soaking our many outreach activities in prayer*

One25 have asked us to pray for the issues mentioned below. If you would like more information about this organisation please look on the mission notice board or see their website : [one25.org.uk](http://one25.org.uk)

1. Pray for protection over our drop-in sessions. Between 8 and 18 women access this service daily and sessions can be very busy. Staff and volunteers respond to a range of complex issues and needs on a daily basis
2. Pray that women remain visible to One25 at night when they are out working. Please pray that when they need us they will contact us using the Freephone number.
3. Please pray for good health and lots of energy for One25 caseworkers. They support the women around their multiple and complex needs and always with such love and compassion.
4. Please pray for the three members of staff who are expecting babies. Pray for good health for them and their unborn babies.
5. Please pray for the women who remain trapped in street sex work. Pray that they will find strength and determination, and they will respond to the support on offer from One25, so that they are able to make positive changes in their lives.